

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 25 No. 4

April 15, 1957

Whole No. 295



## An Open Letter From The Editor

It has been suggested by a number of members of our brotherhood that bibliographical listings of dime novel publications be attempted in the Dime Novel Round-up. In fact one such listing has been submitted for publication and one other is under preparation. The list already received is for Golden Days and contains a chronological listing of all serials published in Golden Days, together with author, dates and reprinting information within the story paper.

Since a listing of this nature would take approximately 24 printed pages, Round-up size, the cost to the editor is prohibitive. To publish the list over a number of issues would make the Round-up monotonous to those who would have no interest in the listing.

I would like to see a project of this type in operation as listings of various weeklies, story papers and libraries would make a valuable reference work. I, personally, have lists of most of the dime novel series published and I know of other collectors who have been compiling lists for a number of years, notable, J. P. Guinon, Denis R. Rogers, Harold E. Farmer and Rev. Donald Steinhauer. I sincerely believe that making these listings available in standardized printed form to members would be a worthwhile objective.

If there is enough interest generated in a project of this type the editor is willing to issue "supplements" to the Round-up provided the cost is borne equally among those who wish copies of the supplement. The cost for printing the list of Golden Days is estimated at \$120.00. This would mean \$1.00 each from 120 members or \$2.00 each from 60 members. In order to determine the feasibility of the plan it is requested that all interested members notify the editor pledging the amount they would be willing to pay for the Golden Days listing. Suggestions or alternatives will be welcomed. If enough pledges are received, printing of the listing will be started at once. The cost to each pledged member will then be announced in the Round-up with a fervent hope that the cash would be forthcoming.

—Edward T. LeBlanc

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publication in the following month's issue,



## The Title Was the Same!

By W. V. G. Lofts

During the 178 years in which English boys publications have been published, there have been many instances where the titles of the various papers have been used several times, in different era's and of course by different publishers.

Some such instances were "Boys Friend" which was first issued in 1864, then again in 1895. "Boys Favourite" 1870, 1879, and again in 1929. These papers as stated above, were all issued in different periods, but never was such a confusion and mix-up caused as in the late Autumn of 1900 when two different new papers appeared within a week of each other, one priced a ½d and the other 1d, but both with the same title!

One can imagine the confusion and irritation it gave to shopkeepers in that period, when they probably had to ask each boy who wanted to buy these papers, "Which one, the ½d or the 1d issue?" The same title of these two papers was called BOYS OF THE EMPIRE and the interesting account of how this came about is this:

In the latter part of September, 1900, Andrew Melrose the publisher, announced that on October 27th, 1900 would be ready the first issue of a new boys paper entitled BOYS OF THE EMPIRE. This was to be a sort of official paper of the Boy Scouts, Boys Brigade, or other similar movements, which had risen from the effects of the Boer War. Being such a patriotic paper, the title BOYS OF THE EMPIRE seemed very apt, and suitable. When the firm of Edwin J. Brett (who was for many years the leading publishers of Boys papers) heard about this, they at once protested saying that they had used the title for their publications before, and that they had some sort of right to it.

Andrew Melrose met the appeal by stating that "Brett was not using the title now" and he had no claim to it whatsoever, and that the title was to be called "Boys of the Empire" and

that was the end of the matter. I should say that Melrose was in the right, and in case of any court action he had the law on his side, with Brett having no paper running with that title at that time made the name null and void. (There was no copyright in those days.)

Brett however, was not to be foiled, and set about it to establish his claim to the title, in one of the most remarkable ways in Boys papers history. Just one week before Melrose's paper was to appear on the bookstalls there appeared another paper entitled "Boys of the Empire" published of course by Brett! and not only this, the price of the paper was only ½d as compared to the 1d one which was to appear by Melrose. This was indeed very quick and hurried work by Brett, and it must have dished Melrose completely, not really so difficult as it seems, as the stories and articles were nearly all reprints of ones which had previously appeared in the run of the paper.

Perhaps the difference in price made things a little easier for the wholesalers, retailers, shopkeepers, etc., in defining these two papers, but after about 36 issues, Brett it seems was still not satisfied with how his "war" was going on with Melrose, so he announced that from next week the price of his paper would be the same as Melrose's, 1d.

When Melrose heard of this, he had to do something to stop the confusion in purchasing the two papers, so he made the following announcement in No. 37 of his paper: "Owing to another periodical bearing the same name as our magazine, having intimated that its price will be raised from a ½d to 1d weekly, a great deal of confusion is likely to be caused to the Newsagents, Wholesalers, and Retailers alike. It would be quite impossible to know which paper was meant when an order was sent for BOYS OF THE EMPIRE. Under these circumstances we have



resolved to make a small, and slight alteration in our title—it will keep us from substantiating the damage and annoyance which the publishers of the other paper evidently intend us to suffer. On and after this date our Magazine will be called "Boys of OUR Empire." The alteration was very slight indeed, and the word OUR was in very small print.

Whether Brett intended his "revenge" paper to be a success I do not know, but it is interesting to note that Melrose's paper finished at Number 155 in October 1903, whilst Brett's ran for 311 issues finishing on September 15th 1906. So Brett must have not only beaten Melrose, but had the satisfaction of his paper running twice as long.

Perhaps I should like to mention that I have the last two issues of Melroses paper, Nos. 154 and 155, which numbers were the commencement of Volume 4. These two copies are the only two known to be in existence, the reason being, I believe that the numbers for volumes 1, 2 and 3 were all bound into yearly volumes (like the famous English BOYS OWN PAPER and CHUMS) and were of course more likely to have been kept, or preserved during the years. Even the British Museum has not these two copies, and I should think that they are very valuable.

The only other case of two papers running at the same time with the same name, was when the firm of E. Hulton produced BOYS MAGAZINE in 1922 there was in fact a paper running of that name but of a semi-religious nature which had been running since 1887 and is still running today! The circulation of the latter was so small that I doubt if the firm of Hulton ever bothered about it, or it is possible did not know of its existence, until they had produced their paper.

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JOHN DeMORGAN  
By Harry A. Weill

(Editor's note: Mr. Weill submitted the following article in answer to a

question by Mr. Roy B. Van Devier in an issue of the Round-up about a year ago. The editor misplaced the manuscript, hence the lateness of its appearance.)

In the July 1943 issue of the Dime Novel Round-up Mr. Willis E. Hurd in an article entitled "An Open Letter on Writers of Golden Hours" had the following to say about John DeMorgan. "DeMorgan must have been an extremely interesting character. All that I could learn about him, however, was extremely little. Originally from England, he had written some parodies on H. Rider Haggard, quaint, farcical tales, of which I have only one, "King Solomon's Wives" which appears in Seaside Library (Pocket Edition) No. 970, Aug. 9, 1886. The other two Seaside tales were "King Solomon's Treasure" and "He". These yarns, which ludicrously parodied H. Rider Haggard's "King Solomon's Mines" and "She" were not well received in England, it appears, and so the author who wrote under the sobriquet of Hider Ragged, came to New York to try his hand at different sorts of novels, historical and fanciful. He joined the staff of Golden Hours, in which his first tale, "The Brave Young Soldier" appeared with the issue of June 2, 1888, under his real name. Around 1899 or 1900, according to a letter I had from him in addition to his writing, he was a tax collector "for one of New York's boroughs".

Mr. Hurd's statement that he wrote historical novels is the epitome of understatement—

Mr. De Morgan's tales embraced every epoch in American history and settlement almost from the discovery of our continent by Columbus. To quote from memory there were among others "The Prince of the Aztecs, or, The Temple of Houwitzolopotchli" (fortunately no one will know whether this is the correct spelling or not; the writer certainly doesn't), Philip of Mount Hope, or: The Grand Sachem of the Wampanoags: there was one about Ponce de Leon and the Fountain of Youth, Captain of the Minute Men,



The Young Privateermen, or, Adventures of the Rand Boys in the War of 1812. Dashing Tom Bexar, (a story of our war with Mexico); Marion and his Men, or; The Swamp Fox of Carolina: Work and Win (a story of the War in the Shenandoah Valley.)

In appearance Mr. De Morgan, (to judge from illustrations) was tall and distinguished looking, with a rounded cranium and upturned mustachios, a la Kaiser Wilhelm. He was a native of West New Brighton, Staten Island, and in visiting Richmond (Boro), toyed with the idea of looking-up some of his descendants, but they have probably long since passed into the Great Beyond. This also applies to the descendants of Cornelius Shea in Tottenville, L. I.

It might be a propos to mention that the only author of Golden Hours whom it was my privilege to behold in person was Gil Patten, and this will form the subject of a separate article. Await my: "A memorable meeting, Patten-ted" which will appear as soon as I can find time to devote to it.

### GEN. PHIL SHERIDAN'S WORDS ON BUFFALO BILL

By Rev. Roland D. Sawyer

Gen. Sheridan had charge in 1866 of the forces in Texas but in August 1867 he was sent to relieve Gen. Hancock who had charge of the Missouri Division of the army, whose purpose was to control the Indians west of the Missouri River, in the territory of Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory and New Mexico.

The tribes to be controlled were the Cheyennes, Kiowas, Arapahoes, and Comanches.

The Indians were seething with discontent and Fort Dodge was an exposed post and there Sheridan held conference with chiefs from these tribes. The Indian war of 1868 started when a Party of Cheyennes raided the Kaws, a friendly tribe, and stole the horses from several ranches of white men. The four tribes mentioned above could put 6000 braves into their army.

At that time there were at least 3

million head of buffalo roaming the states above mentioned, and the Indians depended upon them for food and hides, and these the white men were ruthlessly killing.

Sheridan's force was 2600 men, 1200 mounted and 1400 infantry. It also employed several men who had seen much experience on the plains and in fights with Indians, most notable was William F. Cody, Buffalo Bill. He got his title when young and when he killed buffalo to supply meat to the crews laying the rails of the Kansas-Pacific railroad and had been given a place to do similar work in the quartermaster dept. of the army.

Sheridan first hired him to take dispatches from Fort Larned to Fort Hays, 65 miles thru Indian country and roaming bands of fighting Indians. Then he took further dispatches to Fort Dodge. He rode over 350 miles in less than 60 hours. Bill took these trips notwithstanding that the Indians thirsted for his blood above any other white man, he having killed two of their chiefs in single-handed combat.

Later when in the Indian Territory Sheridan hired California Joe, a man equally valuable as Bill, but not to be depended upon because of his use of liquor, but he was a guide they could not do without so kept him.

Joe and Buffalo Bill were great aids in running down and killing Black Kettle's band of 150 very bad Indians. Joe at one time was cut off and hid 28 hours without food or water in a hole in the ground.

### NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Yankee Magazine, May 1956, has an illustration that appeared on the front page of Happy Days. It says that "The fathers of the youthful inventors are horrified to see their sons on their way to the moon."

The Esquire Magazine, Oct. 1956, would make a good many stamp collectors mouths water to see the fine display of old stamps and covers on the front page, all in color. Makes us



smack our lips, even if we don't have the stamps.

Sid Newhall, 2068 St. Paul St., Rochester 21, N. Y. is interested some in the Merriwells and says Bro. Knott's article in the Sept. 1956 No. 288 of the Roundup was a humdinger. He says he was very much interested in what Mr. Knott wrote about people at the Yale football game, thinking there was a real Frank Merriwell who went to school there. Sid says he sort of thought so at one time. Sid says he used to teach at Yale around 1925. He says Gil Patten certainly made a powerful character. One time Sid was watching Cornell and Princeton at Ithaca playing football. One side just barely nosed out a victory in the last few seconds of play. Sid yelled, "There's a Frank Merriwell finish for you," and several people turned around. They knew what he meant. Millions of people still living have heard of Frank Merriwell. I'm trying to get this fellow to come into the Bro. with us; no luck as yet, maybe someone else will have better luck than I.

Have you seen Charlie Bragin's latest reprint—Nick Carter Library, No. 1 of Aug. 8, 1891. Nick Carter, Detective. By a celebrated author. Sure is a scarce number in the original form, as there are only 2 known copies in existence, this one is just like the original, no advertising on it whatever. Price \$2.00 per copy, sure is a scarce one. I intend to read mine before long.

Bill Claggett sends in some news for our circus collectors on the Clyde Beatty Shows & Circus that it may not go on the rails this season but will change to trucks—that is, they are considering the change—if they do it may make some change in their proposed route. Some of the towns and cities that were formerly showed by the Ringling Show will be cancelled.

Bill says he is reading about the Bradys at Fort Yuma, or the mix-up with the King of Mexico. Those western stories about the Bradys he says can't be beat.

Frisco Bert Couch and his mate are way down in British Honduras now, and what a time they are having, way down in the wilds, hunting, fishing and what not, and oh yes, what a Christmas card he sent out for last Christmas, sure is a humdinger, I'll say. Has on the back cover that they will be riding again, and that's where they are now, and then some—Mexico, Vera Cruz, South America, British Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Guatemala City, oh boy, lucky people.

Well Kenneth Daggett has done it again, by bringing out No. 19 of the Circus Tom Weekly, reprinted from the original of Dec. 26, 1910, "Circus Tom and Memo." This is a fine story of Circus Tom in the lions cage.

Willis E. Hurd says Ralph Adimari wrote up a fine article on Judge Walter Dawson, whom he used to know personally. Willis says he will write up an article on him, as he knew him in 1900 and thereabouts, for the Roundup later.

Ralph F. Adimari is going to write an article on the late Wm. J. Benners (Uncle Billee as he was known to his friends), so any one having information, please write to Ralph F. Adimari, 39 N. 5th Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

Just heard from Albert Pohlman, of Hortonville, Wisc., that he lost his father last November, and he feels terribly. We all send our deepest sympathy to you in your great loss, pard, and know that your father is in the land of all happiness, the land of Pomona.

Howard J. Fahrner is convalescing from a kidney stone operation. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Joe Ambruster of bicycling fame observed his 90th birthday February 13th.

Don Russell, 191 Clinton St., Elmhurst, Ill., is still looking for a copy of "The God Bullet Sport," original or reprint, of the Beadles Dime Library #83. It was written by Buffalo Bill.

Ralph Smith called on Rev. Sawyer, formerly of Ware, Mass., and a for-



mer collector of Beadles Dime and Nickel Novels. The Reverend told Ralph that he knew T. C. Harbaugh, wrote a lot of westerns, personally.

Rev. Don L. Steinhauer from Phila. has been up, also another collector, a new one, Peter Scollo of Norwood, Mass., whom both John McDonald of Somerville, and Jack Neiburg, of Boston, recommended he get in touch with me. He is a very nice fellow to meet.

Albert Johnson of Sacramento, Cal. writes that the Holiday Mag., for February 1957, titled "Party One" by Clifton Fadiman is an article on the mythical road to success has taken a sharp turn since Horatio Alger's day, his heroes got rich through thrift and ours get rich by going in debt, but it is not the article he is referring to, so much as the illustration there that is bound to catch the eye, it is a copy (?) of one of the Pluck and Luck Series. Were you to have a copy like it, you'd have a collector's item, as the illustrator has it Luck and Pluck Series, by Horatio Alger. Maybe I'm wrong but I always thought it was worded Pluck and Luck instead. (Frank Tousey had a Pluck and Luck Weekly but no Alger series in it that I know of, but the Luck and Pluck Series with Alger's stories in them were published by Lee and Sheppard, if I'm not mistaken. The Editor.) Al

doesn't do much reading as he has had a spot i none of his eyes for quite some time, and can't get rid of it.

Was out to Boston March 22 and 23rd, and paid visits to both Frank Henry and Jack Neiburg. Wanted to visit some of the other members, but didn't have time. I sure was tired when I got hom, went to bed for 2 or 3 hours, bus riding, and the smell of bus gas raises heck with me, and besides I guess I'm not as young as I try to think I am, although I was 59 Jan. 4th, some times I feel like 16 then again like 80. Guess we all get that way. We think we are 16 when we are nearer 80, and we fool ourselves. Both Frank Henry and Jack Neiberg look in the best of health all around, although Jack's wife hasn't been so good back along, but is much better now, I'm sure.

#### EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted—Will pay \$2.00 each for Buffalo Bill Border Stories and Great Western Series on my want list. Charles Bragin, 1525 W. 12th Street, Brooklyn 4, N. Y.

Wanted— Frank Reade, Weeklies. Have for exchange Work and Win, Secret Service and #1 Jesse James Stories for exchange. Howard J. Fahrer, 789 St. Paul St., Rochester 5, N. Y.

#### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

48 H. O. Jacobsen, 1409 Fairview Ave., So. Milwaukee, Wis. (New address)  
202 George Hart, 140 Ritner St., Philadelphia 48, Pa. (New member)

#### THICK PAPER COVERS PUBLISHED BY STREET & SMITH FOR SALE

Beadles Frontier series #1 to 100 (full set) Westbrooks	23.00
Merriwell books 1 to 245 full set	125.00
Adventure Lib. 1 to 26 Also odd nos. 55c each	12.00
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Over 300 Round the World Lib.	50c each
Over 100 Great Western Lib., Buffalo Bill and Diamond Dick	60c each
Over 100 Alger Series, O. Optic stories	50c each
Over 50 Buffalo Bill Border	50c each
Over 50 Western Story Lib. (Ted Strong stories)	50c each
Also odd nos. in Adventure Series—Jesse James stories	75c each

ELI A. MESSIER

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Woonsocket, R. I.

## DIME NOVELS AND SIMILAR MATERIAL

### Why Not Get Those Missing Numbers Now!!

Western World (old story paper). Vol. 1 #1 to 22. 1869. Colored illustrations, \$10.00. Vol. 14 #1 to 26, plain ilusts., \$5.00. Single copies 25c plain, 60c colored

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New York Detective Library, \$1.00 to \$3.00. Send for list.

Buffalo Bill, Merriwell, Ted Strong, Nick Carter. Thick paper covered books. \$1.00 each.

Boys' clothbound books. Send for list of many kinds.

Golden Days. Volume 19 and 20. These are rare volumes, in fine condition, \$10.00 each.

Young Men of Great Britain and America #329 to 345, \$2.25

Happy Days. Complete set. Also long runs and singles.

Work and Win #199 to 222, average and good, \$15.00. #225 to 236, \$7.00. #260 to 274, average, \$7.00.

Leslie's Famous Leaders and Battle Scenes of the Civil War. Large page size, about 1000 illustrations. \$15.00. This is the old-timer, not a recent publication.

Something to Read (Brett) #1158 to 1196, \$2.75. Send \$1.00 for 12 different issues.

Boys of England, Boys of the Empire. 12 assorted, \$1.00.

Work and Win, large size, fine, #864 to 963, \$45.00.

Assort at 5 for \$1.00—Brookside, Seaside, Leisure Hour, Franklin Square, Morning News, Union Square, Fireside Novellist, The Earth Supplement, Riverside, Peoples, Windsor, Munro's Library, Family Library, Lakeside. You name the kinds, no special issues selected. 12 for \$2.

Diamond Dick #1 to 238, all small size published (fair, good, fine) \$350.00. #314 to 323 in fine condition, \$15.00. We have others.

Tip Top Weekly, small size, \$1.00 to \$3.00. Send your want list and see what I can do.

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